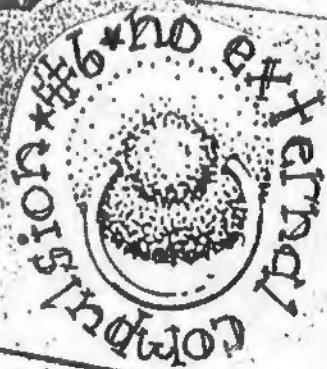




QUEER SPACE COPY
DO NOT TAKE



INVOCATION



Gen had tripped on the doorstep while poring out of the crowded sweaty basement. Out of place and out of step, she picked his knees up off of the stairs and noticed a footprinted mess of papers lying next to him. The show in the basement had disheartened, had broken romanticisms - drunken, bare-breasted mohawks flailing large and backed up by a band that didn't care to entertain the entire crowd - just the boneheaded few. It rubbed against Gen and she no longer cared either. Didn't care about looking any farther, looking any different, doing any damage. Routine came back and walked Gen home with a face full of blankness. At home she had rediscovered the papers she had picked up. It turned out to be the same thing you are looking at now. Gen read along just like you are right now. And all of us wonder what will be said next, where the story leads and who leads it. Is it you?! Has the ending been imagined Is there even a story?! And what is the conveyed wordthought? Morals, stories, messages... fuck 'em all, says I. I want to pull you onto paper, Gen. I want to reflect yourself in these pages. Please brush away the dirt and read closer. This is you plagiarized. Sitting on benches watching people walk by we imagine and emote, but stop before it bums us out. Let's bum it together. Don't write, be creative - that's my job. I'm stealing your mind - you wrote this. In fact, this isn't even happening, it's all a dream. Soon you'll wake up and see these words lying on the floor next to you. Do

you hear me Gen? Are you still there?
I ask you because you deserve to be
asked - you being the main character in
this unfolding... story?... Anyway, I
address you because you will listen to me
and change. I know because these are
your words I am stealing - your words
and desires. And so you're disheartened
with everything and when you got home you read
this and started writing a story about your night.
And you write to vent the unventable - the
all-encompassing emotion. Gen, your actions
perplex with normalcy, shutting, closing, locking
new thought, making no sense but the common.
Can't you see the reader's asshole shitting out
question marks as you write this?! I take no
credit. It's what you told me to write...
remember? Gen knows, Gen understands. This
is where it is. This is what you can
trust, because it was taken from you
and now given back. Can you believe the
news, the media - bought and paid for,
made in mass, tossed and passed until
the speed distorts, conceals and silences?
It's getting closer and will continue
as this country disintegrates further.
This is the new touch, the awakening -
hold it, help create it. There is no
life in consumption. Gen clips, pastes,
types, xeroxes, stays up all night,
misses work, moves out, lives more, blanks less,
blinks when time permits, but doesn't permit time.
No permits, just action and reaction - drink and
piss. And where should I place you in all of
this?! I have the power, because you will react
to my words now. I give it to Gen. Gen places
you on a bed eating yourself, consuming your
passion, drowning in an empty swimming pool. N-
control is given, just created. This is where
be/is/are. Steal me, Generate.

FUCK: BIOWARFARE

(AIDS)

Walking down a back alley after a long night of dumpstering I see those words splayed across a wall and reality cringe at the phrase. People get pissed at our (yours... not mine) government's reaction to the plague. I don't give a fuck because it's very obvious to me that it doesn't fucking matter. It's here and it's fucking killed... plague, government... it's all the fucking same. The reflection of all the ignorance, misinformation, fear and doubt... I might as well be wearing Kaposi's lesions already. And if ya don't catch my groove, then my point is made. Today I look at myself and see a twenty-two year-old queer slowly understanding the changes going on inside of me and the changes twisting the landscape in front of my eyes. Twisting the rationalities into irrationalities... and in the middle of every mass movement I'm twisted... every flock... every migration. Welcome to the turn of the century - same as it ever was. AIDS, the virus, the plague... the mindset. It's two steps away from me right now. You know, friends of friends, but not friends, have died. Tomorrow it will catch my shadow (my friend, my lover, my world.) All of my friends' grandparents are dying of cancer and it's become a natural way for so many families to die - one year of decay and a final gasping, grasping, gaping goodbye. Decay it away and watch all of your actions become throbbing futility. There is no pride in decay, only stale reaction. Cancer is no longer perceived as decay (an unnatural way to die in an unnatural environ) Cancer is no longer reacted to, just dealt with. AIDS is cancer for those who won't become grandparents, who won't have a family to desensitize the anger. So let's assimilate, bay-bee. Let's construct a pretty pink house to protect our withering, grey, wife-beating virus... just like all the breeders. Then maybe they'll have AIDS readathons in all of the schools and we won't have to call it an epidemic, 'cause it'll look and taste as natural as the hamburgers and Ho-Ho's that we're fucking our mouths with. Then maybe all of the faggots will go away and all the dykes will find real men.

CUT THE LINE

Upon further recollection, I've realized that I'm not
worthy of alienation. Alienation, the impetus
for a million and one punk screams. Alienation,
the male equivalent of an everyday femayl fact
of life. I want to erase the lines that I've drawn
on my body to blend. To blend with the contours
in a vain attempt to grasp a clearer perspective
on the position I'm living in. The privilege
of being white coupled with the oppression of
being a queer punk - the privilege to shoplift
without suspicion, the oppression of a silenced
sexuality. And the privilege of a defined alienation
that's somehow justified and understood... thankfully,
I've picked up on the jazz and see alienation for
what it is - an automated, technomotion of language.
A word enhanced and utilized by the computer age
to mask the oppression fed us by these capitechno
flushed-up machines. They were people I once knew,
kissed and played dress-up with. Downtown in a
slo-mo acid blur, disaffection paints ties and
high heels across my eyes... but the brush strokes
for the grimaced, zoned mouths reflect my stares
the longest. I watched a drunk bumbler scream
at the top of his lungs in a busy downtown plaza
- no one even turned their heads. My silence is
uncertain - will I be heard if I scream?! Am I
being heard right now?! Certainty only strangles
the knowledge that I will no longer let alienation
fertilize my self-pity. It is time for me to begin
talking... talking, explaining, articulating, emoting,
and especially listening. Do I make sense? If
not it is only because I'm just beginning to lick
the reality and potential of my words. I'm only
now beginning to understand the distress that my
autoficial alienated maneuvers has cultivated.
Slowly I find the joys and strengths associated
with community. Alienation is the static on the
3a.m. television... community is me... you. It
is a channel for my words, my apologies, my desires.
Community starts with the air passing out of our
lungs and twisted by our tongues and lips. Alienation
is an autosupremomale entity with one nemesis:
our tongues and lips... and my mouth will erase these cornered lines.

RIGHT NOW...

I'm trying to figure out how I feel, how I'm supposed to feel and how to feel. Heavy, eh?! Well, not really. The confusion just fucks with my ability to concentrate on anything else properly. So I'm back in front of my personal therapist... er, I mean typewriter. There was this guy I met on the metro last summer. He got on mumbling to himself. Then, a few blocks later an older womyn hobbled aboard and as shi plopped himself down, the man said "Hi, Mom!" And a second later, he dropped out "How ya doin'?" Shi looked back, squinting hir eyes. Then shi looked back towards the front of the bus, hir nurse uniform almost seeming to hold hir up. "You doin' ok Mom?" the man said again. Flippin' around, shi repeated hir actions. The man was obviously mighty fucked up, but I don't think there's many people out there who couldn't recognize their mother through a buzzed haze. And as he got off of the bus, he mumbled some more and ended with "See ya later Mom." Someone asked the old womyn if shi knew him and shi said no and laughed uncomfortably. I was amazingly perplexed by the whole situation... especially now, five months later as the whole scenario still paints itself across my thoughts... my thoughts of how I should feel. And I wonder how much longer I'll be able to deal with everything I face before I, too, will be stumbling drunk on a metro lokkin' for my mother. Right now I feel the same way I felt after sitting on that bus. Something below the surface of everything is unsettling, yet everything still appears normal... untouched by the mumbulation of twisted vibes. And lately that feeling pervades every moment that my brain is awake.



And when awakened, I swim. Swim in and out of situation after situation until I'm drownin' in my dreams from these conscious somnambulations. Situations starin' at me through the surrealsleepal landscape of my noggin. Yeah, every second is pervaded with uncertainty - can you tell?! It's ok - I work out my situfluksions by treading in the wordwater of my dictobrain. And I'm surviving with the vocabulation therapy of sleep and decay... and it's working.

DECAY DECAY

Swimming in the decay of it all, switching from the butterfly to the doggy-paddle, finding that inevitable laugh squirm out of face. It's down the street from me. It's this vacant building that's up for sale. The laugh is the fact that it's a vacant real estate office that's up for sale by a different real estate agency. The city is a dictionary and this building is rot, defined. Defined to who? To ME... yeah, me, and the thoughts that paint the picture that I'm exaggerating are now flippin' over, doing the backstroke to a different tune. The tune is called conspiracy, pal, and it's been used before. I want to fuck up every real estate office I can get my hands on. And when I've turned every page in this dictionary trying to uncover all of the offices in all of the definitions, I'll set up my own real estate office to sell all of the other offices. Why, you ask? (You ask that a lot...) Because I wish to dive into a new definition of my (your) property. ROT, infinitesimal in every molecule of air that I swim through across the boundaries of this building that has now grown into this confused mass of words. ROT REAL ESTATE will not sell the offices that I fucked up earlier. Instead, it will sell the molecules of rot within (not the action of swimming, but it's vitality) A good business venture - ROT sells itself. Open your eyes when your swimming, 'cause the evidence is clear, bay-bee. ROT is us sold because we sell this infinitesimal, omnipresent decay to each other. It confuses me... you can tell. Yes, you can, because I can see you drowning inside your real estate office which is just past the FOR SALE sign that I'm staring at in definition. I won't rot.

SLEEP

SLEEP

Before I go to sleep, I feel the need to write something... something important and amazing... I know the energy to do so is inside of me. If only it would ooze out. I could tell you about my sexuality. Could you relate? I could spin a fine story. Would it matter? How about some bright ideas that I've been zonin' on? Have you had them, too? It all seems so important, yet it doesn't seem to matter if I tell you at all. And if I did, would it really help anyone? So I'll question you, because I don't matter and would rather waste my time mining your mind for information to fill my questions that I won't be asking you. Slide down a slide... I want you to imagine sliding down a slide backwards and seeing these words remain at the top of the slide continually becoming smaller and further away. When you fall off of the slide, you can no longer focus on this. Why? Because you're too busy figuring out whether you want your mind to land in sand or water... or a tank of singing alligators wearing purple ties (it is, after all, your mind!). I'm so sick of playing these playground games with my mind. Maybe I should mirror realize that they're not my words... I'm just borrowing them and will pass them on just as so many individuals have done to me. Maybe you're borrowing my wordshit already. In fact I know you are, because you've read this far into my meaningless diatribe. Yeah... and furthermore, the word caterpillar appears and crawls into your skull and now you've gotten more than you bargained for from this. Why? Because I'm already done and have barely begun and have encompassed everything - my sexuality, my bright ideas and my fine stories - I've even encompassed your confusion and filled it with vulnerability. I know I have, because my own words have done this to me and there is no difference between me and you. Surprise, sleepyhead.

dressed!

You might have a few ideas as to what exactly you're looking for in a dress, but in case you don't, here's a few tips:

1) DRESSES VS. SKIRTS - Dresses have a top, skirts don't. Got that? I usually find cooler dresses, though and you can always cut off the top and have a shirt AND a skirt. Skirts also hang from your waist and slip if you're skatin' real hard - not a pretty sight! Dresses are punker.

2) COLOR COORDINATION - It's always better if your dress matches your p-rock accessories. For instance, I always pick dresses which will compliment the beer I'll be drinking - a purple rag

bastards one step further. Fashion CAN be a catalyst for change and if I see distrust in your eyes, then think about this - we can make it a catalyst. You, me, we push every fucking awakened twitch beyond the point of that fateful decision. That decision to turn around and look back in the mirror and put on something a little more toned-down. The mirror's inside us wirin' up our securities and slappin' 'em with a big fat "IN-" and so we are the downed tone lookin' like just another. So ya see, the boys they have to wear the dress and learn the moves, learn to do the brain-curtsey. And you're lucky, 'cause ya got me and the androgyn p-rockers to aid ya in the right fit. The first thing ya do is find someone who wears grrrl clothes to go with you to some second-hand store or some other place that has cheap rags. You need someone because you're a boy and your fashion sense is SHIT. Besides, it's more fun to try on dresses with someone else there to laugh and drool in comradery. Dresses are also funner to shop and steal because no two are alike, unlike most clothes we little boys end up finding ourselves in. So you have a partner, a place with clothes and fast hands or a couple of green tickets (money, stupid!) The whole new world order is in front of you! Now,


Hit people where

are as strong as our emperassment.

flaunt

shift

dn



Slip into the androgyny. It isn't hard and doesn't hurt and is much more exciting than your petty, mundane existence. This is about boys wearing dresses. Unfortunately grrrls are screwed over again since androgynous wear is much commonly accepted... unless ya wear a smooth boy suit and all that jazz. But who the fuck wants to dress up like a boy, right!? Anyway, this is about boys and their fabric, 'cause we need help. Big help. Punk is accepted, or at least tolerated, so why not push the

androg

g u n k

think it might be. It's also a great exercise in humiliation - a positive trait which we've all seemed to fear. So flip the spit at the twit walkin' with the pants-action and flaunt shit up! We must reclaim our identity - listen to Adam Ant, Sique Sique Sputnik, The Big Boys and other past androgunks and pull their innovative fashion sense further underground and subvert the fuckin' heck out of Mr. and Mrs. Gender. Until then, wing that nut.

it hurts - in the smile.



Catch 'em off guard. No subversive

prohibiting. Get a nice loose cotton piece - wear it a week and you'll never go back. Dresses are worn for comfort and if you can't get that out of it, why even wear the damn things? So now you've found a dress to suit your needs. "What next?" you ask. Well, ya might want some leggings to go with it to cover up those ugly legs of yours. Punk patches also look mighty spiffy sewn on the bottom or back. Hell, toss on some nail polish or lipstick to fully jump into that genderblender! The possibilities are endless... The best way to come out as an androgunk is to grab a beer or two and forget that you were ever a boy before (you'll quickly find out how easy it is to piss in a dress!). This whole process is a lot easier than you

act is successful with

to match a red label, etc. Of course, as with all other clothes, black is always preferred since you can wear it for a good month and it'll still look clean.
 3) LENGTH - Knee-length is a good p-rock length since it's harder for people to look up and you can still show off some leg action. Shorter dresses are good for doing skate tricks, although you might find yourself flyin' down a street showin' your underwear to every pedestrian around.
 4) TYPE OF MATERIAL - This is important, because comfort is very important. Tight polyester fuckin' sucks - too itchy and

up

ZONED



Neurosis screams the words "Tonight's nightmares are tomorrow's realities!" as these words bubble onto paper. The truth is comprehensible with every newfound caress of experienced craze. Creativity, anger, oppression, noise, action... they all collide now and a future is exorcised. Reality is exercised, running around the block passing up groups of joggers... turning around and pissing on their feet - giving them something new to never forget. This is where we stand - on the edge of a present indusreality which we've been staring at for decades and looking off of the edge vaaaaayyyy down into the chasm... and once in awhile catching a glimpse of tomorrow's reality. A reality littered with angeriot racial strife, copmarine playground games, diseased-relationshipped tonguehumps and an occasional glimmer



of intense relorelease - kissing gutterpunx rubbing the dirt off of each other's backs in the midst of a National Guard siren down the block. SLAM and the intro trannies into the song with the help of a single trumpet note... Shi began to see the clarity in hir maneuvers that night. The here and now was still bleak, but the smirk on hir face was still managing to throb with that positive mental attitude. Hungoverly awake, shi picked up hir brain, gripped it firmly with hir long red fingernails and squeeeeeezeed all the bad juice out. The high pitch squeal bubbled out as the juice was extracted and Zone knew what shi had to do. It was



time. Yes, it was time. It was time to pick up that horn, wail those notes and steady those pissed lips. Looking at hir horn, brain impulses flashed hir back to third grade voids - band practise with this dirty-old-man band instructor who would put his arm around hir as he counted along with hir sheet music. Now, years later, shi picked up the same horn with a sharp-knuckled grip and was determined to blast all of yesterday's bad vibes away and fuck hir own self-made aural image. Off with the Coltrane tape, down with one more dry mouthful of cheap beer and sssllloooooowlyyy the hand reached for hir baby. Shi licked hir lips one last time just as the mouthpiece touched them and hir lungs pulled in the polluted air needed to channel the image to hir ears.

Hi Zoney -

Im going fucking INSANE in here, Zoney.
I really don't want to burden you with my
problems, but I feel like you understand
me. Remember that night when
we went out and you played your "pet
trump" for me?! I wanted to kiss you
so bad. Watching your lips tighten and
your droopy-drunk eyelids sag with the
melody. No, I went home and everything
became another night at the bar. Prison
is lonely. My baby's due in two months.
Hopefully, I'll be on maternity probation
by then. They lock this honing device to
your leg so you can only go to work or
no more than 20 ft from your house.
The state nurse calls daily, I guess.
(They call them pigwives here...) And a
honing device will also be attached to
my baby. Its all fucking scary. I
hope we can get together when I
get out.

See ya,
Clem

Yeah, so here we are... Everything in this zine with the exception of this piece was written a long time ago. I've been lazy or something... Actually, seeing as I've been two pages from finishing this issue for about ten months now I've come to the conclusion that it's got more to do with confusion than laziness. Yeah, confusion... Most of this issue I don't even like - probably because I've been staring at it for so long. Nevertheless, it's gotta get done - the fans are waiting.... right next to all of the other appliances floating around inside my mental cavity. Confusion, yeah, confusion. It's about seein' my own passion and desire sitting down sharin' a joint with some flake (no, not the frosted) when it should be runnin'. My desires should be runnin' - I crave more energy and find it going up in smoke, wasted on anxiety (dreaming about tomorrow's chores and excuses) It's about gettin' calls asking where my student loan payments are and explaining to a lawyer (a lawyer!!) that I'm from another dimension where ties are illegal. It's about bein' a butthole surfer. It's about finally having a job where I'm autonomous, where there's benefits, where I can learn skills and grow, yet I'm still cringing at the thought of wasting my time just to pay someone I've never met to live somewhere I've never met. It's about bein' confused. I'm sick of writing in first person - that's one reason why this issue's taken so long to finish. Oh well. Hopefully any bitterness I feel will be flushed soon. I also get sick of thinking trivial thoughts - thoughts of the space between conversations, between minor problems, between the bullshit. Every thought must come from a genius from now on... right. Say it how you mean it, fucker. Ok, I promise that I will. Ya ever see the back of your skull when you should be looking where you're walking, but you've been walking to get somewhere for so long that it doesn't really matter if you look where you're going. So you stare straight ahead and reverse your pupils and the sunlight shines straight through to the back of your skull and your alter ego (who, me?!) is making shadow puppets only it just looks like the jerk is stranglin' the air... the air in your head. And then you get to your destination and you flip your pupils around and talk the talk and do the do and dosy-do... but you'll be back on the street or maybe it's just me who's always goin' in circles, face turnin' purple from exuberance and exhaustion with this kookey life I'm lost in. I've decided I'm going to stop trying to find it and stay lost - does this mean that I've found it? Anyway, I've been reading more and everything - it's something that's easy to do anywhere, anytime and I'm beginning to grasp a stronger sense of what knowledge and imagination are all about - it doesn't show in this issue, though. Soon...

moments

Whistling past the whispers and whittling away the grips...

There is a vitality, seething, seeping no longer sleeping pushing forward past teething feelings holding heartbeats to stop from throbbing, throwing-up, flopping folding-up into a ball.

talking, talking, thinking into a ball bouncing, crouching for the collision, finally finding the volition to roll, not bounce, learn how to pounce, learn how to shout, not figure things out, but

I mean, if I have the name of this zine tattooed on the back of my neck I might as well continue to make it all mean something. Something beyond record reviews and mindless jabber (like I said, soon...) I hope to put out issues a little more frequently, too... kinda as a forced writing exercise. My apologies to everyone who ordered this issue a long time ago. If you are wondering what I've been doing lately (I know you all have!) check out the band Dogfight- I've been playing sax and making music and really enjoying being on the creating side of sound. It's also given me a finer appreciation of perception and acknowledgment - maybe that only makes sense to me. Oh well, I'm probably the only one reading this anyway! Yeah, Dogfight will have a 7" out in March on Collective Chaos Records - some friends of ours in Chicago. Check it out! Besides that, I manage to stay busy livin' here in Minneapolis. I've seen some personal failures and some very uplifting times, all of which I am just now starting to reflect upon. Must be the new year... It's nice to know that this zine will probably be (at least) looked at by quite a few locals and that people like myself can find support for our efforts, unlike a lot of places I've lived before. Hopefully this will remain the case. It gives me a new reason to continue this xerofice since I'm presently burned out on excessive letter-writing (my apologies to semi-forgotten pen pals!) I also feel the strong desire to voice my anger and resentment in written form (I do enough screaming in Dogfight.) Today the U.S. bombed Iraq again and all sides are dying in Somalia... and Minneapolis. Maybe renewing my faith in the underground press and my own writing abilities will give me a little more faith than a lot of recent endeavors. I accept all of the privilege that I've discovered I possess, but I still find it a very fuckin' tough world to live in... and it isn't getting any easier. One of the first reasons I found for doing a zine was to communicate with people outside the slow pace of rural life. Lately I've started to wonder if that will again be the impetus for finishing future issues. For now, though, I enjoy discovering the uses of words and language and figuring out new ways to twist everything up. It's getting harder and harder to deny the power of weapons over words, but it makes a good challenge... especially to someone who would probably miss. I'm out - expect the next one soon.

.criterion t.

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later (months longer...)

still talk, squawk, gain the momentum
to borate the collas (collaborate the
torrents) kiss the moment where collision
becomes volition where volition is my
body sinking in the sand, landing in the
sink, thinking too quick and coming out
with slow blinks of waves to crave a maze
to connect the sand to the land, the volition
to the collision and the sinks to the
think(tanks) It's humid now, but not raining...
water.

f r o m
no external compulsion
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55407-9998

BYE.



BE LED ASTRAY.



NINE SONG
TAPE

BASS MORE BASS
HORN MORE HORN
BEATS MORE BEATS
\$3 PPD.

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MINNEAPOLIS, MN
P.O. BOX 7302
c/o dogfight